

# The Advocate

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## MONEY TALK.

The Gold Trust Gets the Ear of Congress.  
Silver Men's Progress.

WASHINGTON, December 17.—Prominent silver advocates have been having a long session at Bi-metallic league headquarters. This much of their report is made public through the Associated press:

"The money question is the first and most important issue in this country, and is so related to everything else that no other question can be permanently determined until this is settled.

"The conference recommends that the Bi-metallic league urgently recommend to friends of silver everywhere, in all parties, that they support for the Fifty-fourth congress only such candidates as will pledge themselves in nominating conventions, and openly and publicly in their canvass for election, to the following action in case of their election:

"First—That they will enter into no party caucus that will bind or restrain them from voting and acting in the Fifty-fourth congress otherwise than as given in their pledges to the people before their election; but that they will unite with others who are in favor of the restoration of the bi-metallic standard of money by the free and unrestricted coinage of both gold and silver, on the ratio of 16 to 1, as before the act of 1873, and the issue by the general government of the paper currency, without the intervention of banks, and against the issue of bonds to buy gold; that they will vote and act on all matters, during their terms as members of the Fifty-fourth congress, to secure this end, and especially in the election of a speaker, and in the organization of the house and in the vote for president of the United States, in the event of the election of president failing to the house of representatives.

"Second—That to this end the conference recommends that leagues be everywhere organized, and the work of education be carried on throughout the country, and that in addition to this work, thorough organization be effected in states and districts where such work will be most effective in the election of members of congress and of state legislatures.

"A committee, consisting of General Warner, General Floyd King, Ed Stark and Joseph J. Sheldon, of Connecticut, was appointed to promote the union of the republics of America with other silver standard nations of the world.

"The conference also recommended that there be held during the present winter, two conventions, one in the south and the other at Des Moines, Ia. General A. J. Warner, as president of the Bi-metallic league, was authorized to appoint a legislative committee in charge of the policy adopted by the

conference, and a committee on ways and means, and to appoint a secretary to assist in performing the increasing duties of the league.

"General Warner made the following explanatory statement of the action of the conference:

"First—That the money question is, and will continue to be, the paramount issue till it is settled, and settled rightly and on sound principles; and that it can be displaced by no other.

"Second—That the first battle is for the next congress.

"Third—That to achieve results, silver men must not only stay silver men after they reach congress, but they must become united, and, putting silver above par, work incessantly to accomplish the objects for which they were elected.

"A number of delegates were in favor of organizing a new order, out and out, with the declaration as made on the money question as the sole issue, and leaving the way open for the approbation of not only the People's party but of the 6,000,000 who refused to vote at the late elections, but the conference was not called for such a purpose."

## Board of Charities.

Some important changes have been made in the state charitable institutions during the week. J. F. Carter, superintendent of the Olathe deaf and dumb school, who has shown a wonderful determination to employ as many of his relatives in the institution as possible, carried his plans so far that the board of charities have notified him of his removal. His place will probably be filled by A. A. Stewart of Manhattan. Carter had proven himself to be very incompetent, and there was nothing for the board to do but remove him.

Dr. Eastman has resigned the superintendency of the Topeka insane asylum, his resignation to take effect March next. He is to be succeeded by Dr. J. H. McCassey, who has been assistant superintendent. A change will also be made in the stewardship, and a number of other positions in the asylum, as well as in the reform school.

On Saturday the board let a number of contracts for supplies for the different institutions.

On Monday the president unloaded a 10,000-word message on the Hawaiian muddle. In it he criticises his predecessor, defends himself and throws all future responsibility regarding the matter on congress, giving that body to understand that he was tired of it. He might have added that the readers of newspapers are just as tired as he, but that was neglected.

M. A. Waterman has been appointed assistant bank commissioner, to fill the vacancy made by the resignation of G. E. Hathaway.

## ASTONISHING!

The American Federation of Labor Takes Advance Grounds.

The proceedings of the last national convention of the American Federation of Labor, held in Chicago during the whole week ending December 16, indicate that the political agitation of the past year has had a wonderful effect on the leading men of that organization. The effect is shown in the fact that the federation has taken steps on political and social questions far in advance of any other labor organization, and in some respects in advance of the People's party. Heretofore the federation has always shown a disposition to be conservative, and to "keep out of politics." True, it has made political declarations before this, but they were such as could not possibly be called progressive, much less radical. But at this meeting the delegates seem to have realized the necessity of doing something to make themselves useful, even if they had to step beyond the bounds of conservatism. Samuel Gompers, who was at this meeting, re-elected for the twelfth term to the office of president, has always been fearful lest the movement should go ashore on the rack of politics, yet he joined the great majority of the delegates in urging the adoption of some of the most radical expressions.

One of the first important steps the federation took was to indorse the action of Governor Altgeld in the following words:

"WHEREAS, The pardoning of the so-called Chicago anarchists by Governor Altgeld of the state of Illinois is but a simple act of justice,

"WHEREAS, The conviction and incarceration of Fielding, Schwab and Nesbe was the result of class prejudice and persecution at a time when the public mind was influenced with passion; and

"WHEREAS, The governor of Illinois, in the face of a set resolve of the capitalist class to the contrary, has had the courage to defy power and opposition in defense of innocence and justice, thus proving the honesty and sincerity of heart; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we indorse Governor Altgeld's action and accept the reasons he assigns as in line with the true facts of the case; and be it further

"Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to Governor Altgeld."

The above was unanimously adopted as was also the following:

"Resolved, That a system of society that denies to the willing man the opportunity to work, then treats him as an outcast, arrests him as a vagrant, and punishes him as a felon is by this convention condemned as inhuman and destructive of the liberty of the human race.

"Resolved, That the right to work is the right to life. To deny the one is to destroy the other. That when the private employer cannot or will not give work, the municipality, state or nation must."

But the most astonishing proceeding was the unanimous adoption of the following political declaration, after a free and lengthy discussion:

"WHEREAS, The trades unions of Great Britain by the light of experience and the logic of progress, adopted the principle of independent labor politics as an auxiliary to their economic action, and

"WHEREAS, Such action has resulted in the most gratifying success, and

"WHEREAS, Such independent labor politics are based upon the following program: 1—Compulsory education; 2—Direct legislation; 3—A legal eight hour work day; 4—Sanitary inspection of workshop, home and mine; 5—Liability of employer for injury to health, life or body; 6—The abolition of contract labor in all public work; 7—The abolition of the sweating system; 8—The municipal ownership of street car, gas and electric plants for public distribution of light, heat and power; 9—The nationalization of telegraph, telephone, railroads and mines; 10—The collective ownership by the people of all means of production and distribution; 11—The principal of referendum in all legislation; therefore

"Resolved, That this convention hereby indorse the political action of our British comrades; and

"Resolved, That the program and basis of political labor movement be and hereby are submitted for the consideration of the labor organizations of America, and the request that their delegates to the next annual convention of the American Federation of Labor be instructed on this most important subject."

Another resolution declared for free coinage at a 16 to 1 ratio.

A resolution to invite Acting Mayor Swift of Chicago, to address the Federation was quickly defeated, although an invitation had already been extended to Governor Altgeld. The objection to the mayor was that he was not in sympathy with the organization. "We want to thank Chicago for the kindness it has shown us," said one delegate last night, "but the proper way to return thanks is by resolutions to the city council. It would be the height of folly for us to listen to an address by Mayor Swift at this time, because he is in the midst of an exciting campaign. It would be folly at any time, because he is by no means a friend of labor, unless his political record is a lie. I hope the convention will not reject the committee's report and I am sure that it will not."

Over 2,400 votes were represented in the convention.

ADVICE FROM BANKERS.

Some weeks ago the committee on  
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